Project I.D. No.133

NAME: Ando, Tay DATE OF BIRTH: 1883 PLACE OF BIRTH: Aichi
Age: 92 Sex: M Marital Status: M Education: None

PRE-WAR:
Date of arrival in U.S.: 1910 Age: 27 M.S. S. Port of entry: New York
Occupation/s: 1. Farmer. 2. Dairy Farm owner 3. _____
Place of residence: 1. New York (1 yr) 2. Livingston, Ca. 3. _____
Religious affiliation: Christian Church
Community organizations/activities: _____

EVACUATION:
Name of assembly center: Merced Assembly Center
Name of relocation center: Amache, Colorado
Dispensation of property: own home Names of bank/s: _____
Jobs held in camp: 1. Sanitation man 2. _____
Jobs held outside of camp: _____
Left camp to go to: Boston, Mass. (In 1943)

POST-WAR:
Date returned to West Coast: January 1945 (California)
Address/es: 1. Boston, mass. 2. 9524 West Eucalpytus Avenue, Livingston, California
3. _____
Religious affiliation: Christian Church
Activities: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
If deceased, date, place and age at time of death: _____

Name of interviewer: Heihachiro Takarabe Date: 6/4/75 Place: Livingston, Ca.
Translator: Yasuka Akamatsu

NAME: Tay Ando

AGE: 92

DATE OF BIRTH: 1883 [illegible]

PLACE OF BIRTH: Aichi Ken

YEAR OF ENTRY INTO THE USA: 1910, 27 years old

MAJOR OCCUPATION: Farmer

CAMP: Amachi, Colorado

DATE OF INTERVIEW: June 4, 1975

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: Livingston, California

INTERVIEWER: Heihachiro Takarabe

TRANSLATOR: Yasuka Akamatsu

Mr. Tay Ando, Livingston, Calif.

Age 92

Interviewd by Rev. H. Takarabe on 6-4-75

Q: Please tell me your name.

A; My name is Tay Ando. It was Teiichi but I asked to have my name shortened to "Tay" when I received my U.S. citizenship.

Q: What part of Japan did you come from?

A: I came from Aichi Prefecture.

Q: Do you remember of some happening while you were in Japan?

A: I guess because of my old age, I do not recallect very much.

Q: Did you attend school?

A: I did not attend school at all.

Q: Were there schools then?

A: There were but it was hard for poor people to attend.

Q: When were you born?

A: In 1883 (age 92 now).

Q: What did you do to play when you were a child?

A: I don't remember well but I think we played without toys.

Q: How may brothers and sisters did you have?

A: I was adopted and I do not know whether I had any brothers or sisters.

Q: What did your father do for a living?

A: He did a little farming.

Q: When did you come to America?

A: I think it was around 1910.

Q: What made you decide to come to America?

A: I just wanted to come.

Q: Did your family make arrangements for you to come?

A: No, they did not help me. I came on my own.

Q: Did they have anything to say about it?

A: I was already away from home so they didn't know about it.

Q: Where did you arrive in the United States?

A: I arrived in New York. I wanted to get into a school there if I could but it wasn't easy so I came to California to farm.

Q: How long did you stay in New York?

A: About one year, I think.

Q: Did you go to a school?

A: No, I couldn't. I just had enough money for traveling.

Q: What part of California did you come to?

A: I came to Livingston.

Q: Did you know anyone here?

A: No, I didn't.

Q: Did you know about the "Yamato Colony" (Japanese settlement in Livingston, Calif.)?

A: I don't think I knew about it.

Q: Was it pretty well established when you came?

A: I think the "Yamato Colony" was started around 1908. When I came, there were some grapes in the field but the sandstorm was so severe and the grapes were covered with sand. There was no work here so I went to work in the Fresno area. I had to repay some money I borrowed in Japan before I came. I must say that all I had was my body when I came to America.

Q: How long did you work in the Fresno area?

A: Only during the grape picking season.

Q: Did you buy any land here?

A: I never bought land. I did labor work.

Q: Was Mr. Miyajima here when you came?

A: I think he died in San Francisco about the time I came here.

Q: Have you met Him?

A: I think I met him couple of times but I don't remember him very well.

Q: Did he start this Colony?

A: He was from Chiba, Japan and I understand that immigrants from Chiba were grouped together in one area.

Q: What did you do after that?

A: I had no special skill so I worked and worked as a laborer. Finally, I bought 20 acres which was a dairy farm and operated it.

Q: How many years was it after you arrived here?

A: In 1918. I remember that because it was just about the time World War I ended.

Q: How long have you been married?

A: It's about 60 years.

Q: What year was it that you got married?

A: I think it was 1916.

Q: Where you here then?

A: No, I wasn't settled yet. I rented a place from Mr. and Mrs. Okue.

Q: Mr. Okue started the "Yamato Colony" did he not?

A: Yes, he did.

(Mrs. Ando joins in)

Rev. H.," Please come and join us."

Mrs. Ando,"I suffered a stroke and my memory is not good after that."

Q: I understand that you came in 1916. Are you from the same part of Japan as Mr. Ando?

A: No, I was born in Nagano Prefecture, Japan but I moved to Tokyo before school age.

Q: When you came to America, were you shocked?

A: Yes, I was. I know nothing of farming.

Q: I heard this part of the country was very hot and an awful place to live. Was it?

A: Yes, it was a very hot place. Now I like it here.

Q: What was your husband doing when you came?

A: He was farming.

Q: Did you own any land in the"Yamato Colony"?

Mr. Ando: Yes, I bought a share from Mr. Okue. I had 60 acres in the "Yamato Colony". My son operates it now.

Q: What did you grow?

A: I grew grapes because grapes mature fast. I had some peach and almond trees also.

Q: What sort of hardship did you go through?

Mr. Ando: Number one, was that I did not have much monetary resourcess.

Mrs. Ando: When we were young, we were able to cope with hardships even if we didn't have money.

Q: Did you suffer lack of food?

Both: We never went hungry.

Q: What time did you go out to work in the mornings?

A: There was no set time. When it becameedaylight, we got up, ate breakfast and went out to work.

Q: It was early in the morning, was it not?

Mrs. Ando: Yes, we had to get out early because it go so hot during mid-day.

Q: What did you do out in the farm?

Mrs. Ando: There was so much to do out in the farm. After I suffered a stroke, I can't do anything.

Q: When you were young, did you go out to work around 6:00 A.M.?

Mrs. Ando: Yes, at 6:00 A.M. we were already out working. I had never been on a farm before I came to America. I didn't even know how radishes grew. I don't think I did a good job.

Q: What did you do at noon.

A: We came home to eat lunch.

Q: How many children do you have?
A: We have five. One son and four daughters. Somehow, we were able to send all our children to college which we are thankful.

Q: How did you do during the 1933 Depression?
Mr. Ando: It wasn't easy. We had hard time buying feed for our horses and paying interest on the mortgage. I think the mortgator was kind and waited for our payments.
Mrs. Ando: Because of the "prohibition" we didn't have income from our grapes. We couldn't sell grapes.
Mr. Ando: We weren't successful but we were able to make a living.

Q: After that (depression) did it improve?
Mr. Ando: After World War II, things got better.

Q: What did you think when "Pearl Harbor" was bombed?
Mr. Ando: When I heard it over the radio, I was shocked because I did not think feelings between the United States and Japan were that bad. Nowdays, the war is not between man and man. It is production versus production. Some Americans took advantage of the situation for their own gain but I think the U. S. Government treated us fair. I didn't think it was right to evacuate us from our homes. However, for some Japanese who were having difficulty

making a living at the time were happy to be in camps. For us, it was not good. I had planted grapes and we were beginning to have income from it. That was sad for us.

Q: What did you do with your farm equipment and household furnitures at the time of the evacuation?
A: Farm equipments were lost but we put household furnitures in this house, locked it up and left.

Q: Did someone operate your farm?
A: Some of us Japanese got together, hired a foreman and had him supervise the operation of our farm. We received some profit so it wasn't too bad but if we had operated it ourselves during this time, we would have made a good profit.

Q: Which relocation center did you go to?
A: We went to Amache, Colorado.

Q: Did you go to an Assembly Center?
A: Yes, we went to Merced Assembly Center and then to Amache, Colorado.

Q: What did you think of the center?
A: The relocation center was much better than the Assembly Center. Some people from Los Angeles area, who were just barely making a living, didn't want to leave the center when it was ready to close. We relocated to the eastern part of the

United States after staying in the center a little over a year. We did not have to worry about food but I thought we would be spoiled by easy living. My children were already out.

Q: Were your children grown then?

A: Yes, three were graduates of colleges and two were in college. One graduated from an eastern college during the war and the younger son graduated from Stanford University after we returned to California. To have been in a camp during the war hurt us mentally and financially.

We were in Boston after we left camp. We still associate with our caucasian friends we made while we were there. I don't think everything was bad during the war.

Q: What did you do in Boston?

A: We did housework for a very nice family.

Q: Did you work while you were in Amache Camp?

A: Yes, I worked as a sanitation man, cleaning bathrooms and toilets. I took a job that others did not want.

Q: You are to be commended.

A: I didn't want to get lazy and mentally dull in the camp. I was just about 60 years old. From Boston, I came back here to California before the war ended in January 1945. Our second daughter, who was employed in New York, came back with us. Someone shot at our house the night we returned and we still have

some of those marks. We told our daughter to come to the back-room but she stayed in the front bedroom because she wanted to see who was shooting. We were shot at a few more times after that. Caucasian friends around here had an idea who was doing it. He (an Oklahoman) left the community before long.

Q: The war ended in August but did you return in January?
A: Yes, others returned almost a year later. We heard of the German surrender, the A-Bomb in Japan and the Japanese surrender after we returned here. (Note: The Western Defense Command permitted Japanese to return to the west coast in January 1945. Some returned as soon as they could but many did not return to the west coast until the war was over.)

Q: How did you feel when Japan lost the war?
A: I thought it was natural. I didn't like the Japanese Military. If they knew their strength, they should not have fought.

Q: Were Mexicans good toward Japanese?
A: For some Mexicans, the return of Japanese was not a benefit to them.

Q: What type of people do you hire as laborers?
A: I use anyone who asks for work but mostly Mexicans.

Q: Do you use Filipinos?

A: There aren't very many Filipinos around here now. They are a little too smart. They aren't as obedient as Mexicans are. One good thing about Filipinos is that they don't have backaches and are good at stoop labor.

Q: When you first arrived in Livingston, did you hire Japanese?
A: No, I didn't.

Q: Weren't there any single Japanese men around here then?
A: We had to hire them from Stockton and Fresno. When we hired Japanese, we had to furnish room and board and we didn't like that.

Q: Didn't anyone hire Japanese?
A: Some farmers hired Japanese from Sacramento for packing grapes because they were good at it. We packed ours. Later on, a Growers Association was organized. We brought our grapes there to be packed and shipped. Japanese laborers were very short-tempered. I believe there are hardly any Japanese laborers now. What part of Japan did you come from Rev. Takarabe? Many Japanese from Wakayama and Hiroshima Prefectures were here. Hiroshima people were little more patient than Wakayama people.

Q: You must have worked hard.
A: Yes, we worked hard as there was nothing else to do. My hands got crippled like this from shoveling. I used to play the flute but I cannot do it anymore because my fingers can't

play the notes.

Q: Wasn't it hot here in those days?

A: Yes, I came here on July 16th and it was 116 degrees on that day. It was really hot.

Q: Was the wind strong?

A: The wind was strong but it was cooler when it was blowing.

Q: Was it like a desert here?

A: Yes, it was. We cultivated a small area at a time and gradually enlarged our farm. Because of Japanese, this land has opened up for farming. The government brought some war veterans to Delhi near here, gave them all kind of help but they failed and went away. The Japanese worked diligently. The ones without education worked hard but lacked something.

Q: Did you do something together as the "Yamato Colony"?

A: We had the church.

Q: It was a colony but were you individual farmers?

A: Yes, we were. Some brothers farmed together. Today, Nisei brothers farm together on a big scale. I have only one son and wished I had more.

Q: What do you wish to convey to the younger generation?

A: I don't tell the Niseis how hard I worked because it sounds

like bragging but the Isseis worked under many handicaps. I am amazed we came this far. I think the worst handicap was language. We couldn't talk business.

Q: Do you think you were cheated at any time because of language handicap?
A: I don't think there was any in this area. There might have been some elsewhere. We owned our land and there were no leases involved.

Q: What sort of business handicap did you run into?
A: When we were making contracts, we were not aware of some clauses.

Q: Was Mr. Bumberger (?) a reliable man?
A: He was a business man. I think he was honest. He charged enough from people who had money but didn't receive any from the poorer people. He made lot of money but I don't think he did anything illegal.

Q: Mr. Ando, do you go to church?
A: I did when I was younger but I don't go at all now. Who is doing the Radio Ministry? I listen to it and I know Mr. Osuke Takigawa, who spoke.

Q: What does the growers association do?
A: They buy materials for us and they do the shipping for us.

Q: Do they still do it now?

A: Yes, they are doing a reliable business.

Q: How many families are there in this association?

A: I don't know how many there are now. I am the only early settler living here now. Other Isseis who are here now came later than I. The earlier ones have all passed away.

Q: Are many Issei women left?

A: Yes.

Q: Are there any early settlers wives living?

A: No, I think they have all passed away.

Q: When did you build this house?

A: It was during the war. Just before the war started, I made a contract with a carpenter. All the material was here before Pearl Harbor was bombed. I didn't know what to do so I spoke to a policeman. He said don't worry--go ahead and build. I lived here one week before the evacuation. The contractor agreed to watch the house for me and I asked him not to let anyone live here but I guess someone did because the hardwood was damaged.

Q: How much did it cost to guild this?

A: About $6,000.00. They used good material in those days. Now it would probably cost more than double to build something like this.

Q: We want to translate this tape into English. Can we let others listen to this? We might also publish books using these materials. Can the Oral History Project have the property rights to this?

A: Yes, you may. There are no secrets in this.

Q: Please sign this form of authorization for me.

A: Alright, my mailing address is: 9524 West Eucalpytus Ave., Winto, Calif.

THE END

(Translated by Y. Akamatsu)